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Surrender

Chap. XXVI

WAR CRIES

Every Arab prince and Arab tribe has a special war cry. Some have several and some a single one. 721 192

These war cries, called *nakhwa* and *'iswak*, are yelled out in the heat of battle, and especially during the wild charge of horsemen.

The war cry is supposed to strike terror into the foe. It also enables the individual warrior to recognise friend from enemy in the general *mêlée* that follows a charge—for every man as he goes into action muffles up his face till only his eyes are seen, and no uniforms distinguish combatants or differentiate friend from foe. [724]

SURRENDER

Among the Badawin the equivalent of the European or Westerner's "Hands up" is for a man to drop his rifle on the ground and place *the thumbs of both hands simultaneously between his teeth with the fingers of each hand extended outwards towards the person to whom he is surrendering*. This is the normal method, when for instance a man is a fugitive and is about to be caught up and killed by his pursuers. The meaning of the act is that he realizes that all is up, he has been caught, he knows death is his portion, nevertheless he casts himself on God's mercy and on that of his enemies. In nine times out of ten he will be spared. 726 516

Even in the heat of battle a man on the losing side can escape death if he recognises an old friend or acquaintance in the opposing ranks, by shouting out to him and saying, *Ya fulan, ana fi wejh-ak* (O So-and-So, I put myself under your protection). If the person so called upon has sufficient influence with his comrades to grant such protection, he replies, *Atuinak wejhki sallem nafigak* or *salahak* (I have given you my protection, hand over your rifle, or arms). Under such circumstances the suppliant is absolutely safe, and his guarantor goes bail for his life. 572 726

Should the man appealed to not be of sufficient importance among his fellow fighters to guarantee the life of the suppliant, he will call out to him and advise him to demand protection from someone more influential than himself, i.e. *Udub wejh fulan* (Call upon the

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